Forecasts of natural calamaties by Indian Meteorological Department

226. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department is unable to forecast natural calamities accurately with the available inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to improve its capabilties to monitor, verify and predict natural calamities more accurately; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to upgrade the scientific know-how to realize this?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At persent India Meteorological Department is providing forecast as per the inputs available to them with their limited infrastructure and manpower resources. However, the Government is revamping and modernizing the India Meteorological Department and it is going to take two to three years. During this time they will be able to acquire equipment for forecasting at accuracy levels which are at par with world standards. The Government will train the manpower in the India Meteorological Department for better weather prediction and use of sophisticated weather models.

Autonomy to scientific institutions

227. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to grant more autonomy to scientific institutions in the country for providing better opportunities to the scientific community to pursue their R&D;

(b) what are the measures Government are taking to codify the intellectual property rights to enable scientists to exercise more claims on their products; and

(c) whether giving deemed university status to CSIR would promote inter-disciplinary studies and research works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The need to grant more autonomy to scientific institutions has been discussed at various for a and it has been felt that scientific instutitions require more autonomy in the country for providing better opportunities to the scientific community to pursue their R&D.

(b) The Government has set up specialized cells/centre/units in its different departments and agencies, which provide technical, financial, and legal help to scientists for protecting their inventive works in India and other countries. Intellectual property right, so generated, are maintained by these cells/centre/units. The ownership of such patents resides with the concerned institutions and scientists' names appear as inventers in the patent documents.

(c) The deemed university status would give impetus to CSIR to produce specialized scientific human resource in selected frontier areas and to undertake scientific industrial research as a career. Such an opportunity to work on the frontier and inter-disciplinary areas is likely to attract the best of the young minds.

Setting up of biotechnology centre

228. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a biotechnology centre under the auspices of UNESCO and sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry;

(b) in what way, the proposed institute is going to protect the patents in biotechnology, help in having a strong database on sharing genetic resources as well as traditional knowlege;

(c) whether it is also a fact that institute is going to offer PG courses; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A proposal from the Department of Biotechnology to set up a Regional Centre for education